

NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM B371-B
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 15, 1969

The Honorable John H. Chafee
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C. 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Following, in part, is a complaint I have received on which I would like a full and complete explanation at the earliest date:

"I regularly read the Technical Abstract Bulletin published by the Defense Documentation Center, Defense Supply Agency. This excellent bulletin presents abstracts of documents of interest to and available to defense contractors. Recently I have noticed a trend toward the classification of translations from Russian books and periodicals. In bulletin number 69-3 a truly classic case of this appeared.

"Document AD-394352 was abstracted in Field 13. This is a translation by the Naval Intelligence Command, Wash., D. C., Translation Div; issued 30 Oct. 1968, Report No. VIC-Trans-2721 (b) and is a translation of Trans. of Military Thought (Voyennaya Mysl') (USSR) n 10 p49-55 1966 by W. B. Cramer. Not only is this document classified Confidential, but the title is also classified.

"If this Russian publication is readily available, why is the translation classified? Who is concealing information from whom? I certainly would be interested in hearing a justification regarding the classification of this type of document."

Haphazard and irresponsible use of the secrecy stamp by the military has long been of concern to the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee. Thus, when the Subcommittee receives a complaint of this type it is most disturbing.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. MOSS
Chairman